

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
June 13, 2019**

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This report covers the time period from April 26 to June 12. It is intended to provide an overview (not an exhaustive list) of the activities and events that the President has participated in during the time period. Other information notes are also provided under the related NIC Plan 2020 Strategic Priority headings. In some cases, items may be related to more than one strategic priority.

BC Provincial Government

On April 30, Board Chair, Jane Murphy and Vice Chair, Eric Mosely and I visited the Legislature in Victoria for meetings with provincial government members. In a meeting with Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, we discussed NIC's work in areas of applied research, innovation and economic development, as well as the role of [Innovate BC](#) and the [BC Innovation Commissioner](#).

We also met with Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA for Comox Valley, along with staff representing Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and MLA for North Island. We took the opportunity to thank them for recent post-secondary education funding initiatives, specifically their support of NIC, to update them on some of our successes, and to advocate for the importance of student housing for the Comox Valley.

High Quality, Relevant, Responsive Curriculum and Programs

Industrial Automation Program Student Capstone

On May 29, at the Campbell River Campus, I attended the Industrial Automation program student capstone project showcase event. The event was well attended by community members, students and college employees. Students in the program did an excellent job of presenting the working of their final project - an automated custom cold coffee machine. For more information go to this [link](#).

Wildfire Crew Member Training

On May 22 and 24, I hosted provincial government media events in Campbell River and Port Alberni at which Minister Claire Trevena and Minister Scott Fraser (pictured below) announced funding for two cohorts of Wildfire Crew Member training delivered by the College in partnership with [Strategic Natural Resource Consultants](#). More information is available at this [link](#).



School of Business

On May 30, I attended the 7th Annual School of Business Spring Mixer. It was a great opportunity to meet some of our past business degree graduates and their employers, to acknowledge our faculty and express appreciation to them all for supporting the College.

Aboriginal Education and Indigenization

Campbell River Gathering Place

The College has engaged [Formline Architecture](#) to assist us with the design of the Campbell River Aboriginal Gathering Place. A more detailed update on the project will be provided at the September 2019 College Board meeting.

International Education

Port Alberni City Council

On May 21, Lisa Domae, Mark Herringer and I met with the Port Alberni City Council during their Committee of the Whole meeting. We briefed them on the College's International Education activities and our plans to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program to a cohort of students from India at the Port Alberni Campus. Mayor Minions and Council Members expressed support for the College's initiative.

People, Organization, Culture

Coffee Chats

On April 24, I hosted a group of faculty and staff employees for an informal visit and conversation in my office. Since September, I have held eight of these sessions, attended by about 45 employees. They have proven to be a great way to connect with members of our internal community and to learn more about the people who make NIC so successful. I look forward to continuing with these sessions in the fall.

Year-end Celebration Day

On May 31, I hosted our annual Employee Celebration Day at the Comox Valley Campus. The event was attended by approximately 200 faculty, staff and administrative employees from all campuses. The program for the event included: informal conversation over coffee and snacks; presentation of the 2019 Emeritus Recognition Awards to five retired faculty members (pictured below); a 2018/19 Year-in-Review slide show presentation; lunch; and, team games.



Resources, Investment, Sustainability

North Island College Foundation (NICF)

On May 12 and June 3, I attended regular meetings of the NICF Board of Directors. The agendas for the meetings included reports and updates from the NICF Directors and Committees. Other business items included the CR campaign update, meeting schedule for 19/20, and tour of the CR campus expansion and renovation project. On June 3rd, the AGM was held following the regular meeting of the NICF Board of Directors.

Active Connections to Community

Comox Valley ElderCollege

On May 15, Tony Bellavia (AVP, Access and Regions), Lynne MacFadgen (Director, Continuing Education and Training) and I met with the Comox Valley ElderCollege Executive Committee (Michael Syer, Executive Chair; Dennis McMahon, Vice Chair; and Don Axtell, Vice Chair Nominee). We discussed the College's ability to provide information technology supports to ElderCollege, planning for the 20th Anniversary Celebrations on September 13th, as well as student registration and data systems.

Nanwakolas Council Golf Challenge

On June 7, I participated in the Nanawakolas Council golf tournament at Storey Creek Golf Club in Campbell River. The tournament raises funds for student bursaries for Aboriginal students. Since 2012 the endowment fund has grown to \$113,000. More details are available [here](#).

Other Topics

BC Colleges (BCC)

On May 17, I chaired a meeting of the BCC Executive Committee. The agenda for the meeting included an update on the provincial government, discussion of college system issues, and preparations for the annual BC Colleges Strategic Retreat.

The BCC Strategic Retreat was held on May 27-28, at Okanagan College in Kelowna. Approximately 30 college presidents and vice presidents attended. The program included sessions focused on: Indigenous students; Social Innovation; Technology Innovation; Future Skills; and, Change in Higher Education. A summary of the proceedings, and key challenges and priorities for BC Colleges is being prepared and will serve as a focus for the association's advocacy and communications for 2019/20.

"Transforming for Tomorrow – BC Colleges: Creating Opportunities for All"

At the time of the Strategic Retreat, BC Colleges also published the final report: *Transforming for Tomorrow – BC Colleges: Creating Opportunities for All*.

This visioning document has been created to acknowledge British Columbia's rapidly changing landscape - economic, social and cultural - and to offer a coordinated response from British Columbia's colleges. The intention is not to provide a prescriptive roadmap for the future but rather to indicate how BC's colleges plan to respond collaboratively and constructively to the emergent needs of learners, employers, and communities, on behalf of government and all British Columbians. Our positive actions will ultimately contribute toward the shared goal: creating opportunities for all, prosperity and well-being for our people in all parts of the province (p.3)

BC Colleges' related [media release](#) and the full-text final [report](#) are available on-line.

Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan)

On May 3-4, I attended the CICan Pre-Conference Forum for Rural, Remote and Northern Serving Colleges, hosted by Georgian College in Owen Sound, Ontario. The event was attended by approximately 100 delegates from colleges in all 13 provinces and territories. The Forum was an excellent opportunity to learn about what other Rural, Remote and Northern Colleges are doing to help sustain their smaller campuses, as well as to support student success and community development. The session papers presented at the Forum are available on-line at this [link](#). I moderated two sessions – the opening session with the Keynote Speaker Corinna Moore and a panel session on Community and Economic Development.

The CICan Annual Conference, was held on May 5-7 in Niagara Falls Ontario, hosted by Niagara College and included many excellent plenary and workshop sessions. Diane Naugler (Dean, Business and Applied Studies) and I presented a session regarding “Diversity Matters@NIC.” Randall Heidt (VP Strategic Initiatives) co-presented a highly popular session titled “[Is your institution more like Amazon or Sears?](#)” Mark Herringer facilitated a session in support of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and their work with the Student Refugee and Leave For Change Programs. Tony Bellavia, Danielle Hoogland, and Eric Mosely also attended the conference.

“Governing in the Public Interest”

On May 23, I attended a provincial day-long event organized by the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office ([CABRO](#)) to introduce the new “Governing in the Public Interest Training for BC Public Sector Appointees” program that they have developed. The program curriculum will be available on-line for all provincial board organizations and includes four modules: Foundational Training; Financial Governance; Risk Management; and, Human Resources.

Board Governance and Human Resources (GHR) Committee

On May 16, I participated in a teleconference meeting with members of the GHR Committee to discuss the Board evaluation process being facilitated by Scott Borland (Cygnum Management Consultants). On May 30, I attended the GHR Committee meeting. The agenda included discussion of Board Committees’ terms of reference, college policies that involve the Board, and the committee’s workplan for 2019/20.

Board Executive Committee

On May 30, I facilitated a meeting of the Board Executive Committee. A separate report on these meetings is included in the June 13 Board Meeting agenda package.

Irving K. Barber Scholarship Society of BC (IKBBC)

On June 10, I attended a regular meeting of IKBBC Board of Directors in Victoria. I will be taking on the Chair role for the Transfer Awards Committee and have been re-appointed to the Board of Directors for an additional term of three years effective June 10, 2019.

Mixalakwa Campus in Port Hardy

The video highlights reel from the Mixalakwa Campus naming ceremony on April 25 can be viewed on youtube [here](#).

On June 12, I participated in the Celebration of Student Success and Completions in Port Hardy. Board Chair, Jane Murphy was also in attendance.